2012 ESG Stakeholder Webinar
Frequently Asked Questions

Q1:   Will the Stakeholder Webinar be available online?

Yes. The Webinar Power Point Presentation Slides have been posted to the HCD Website at:
http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/esg/2012HCD_ESG_StakeholderWebinar11-12-2012.pdf

Q2:   Will HCD be offering 2 Year Grants in the future?

HCD anticipates being able to offer grants longer than 1 year, but less than 2 years due to the timing of when HUD funds become available.

Q3:   Will HCD consider lowering the Maximum Grant Amount in order to spread the resources more equitably to more communities and agencies?

Yes. Based on input received from HCD's ESG Program Stakeholders, HCD is lowering the Maximum Grant Amount for the Emergency Shelter Component to $150,000 per Application in the 2012 NOFA.

Q4:   Why does the Continuum of Care (CoC) need to submit a Summary of Projects for Attachment D?

HUD has identified in its new ESG Program Regulations an expanded collaborative role between ESG Program Recipients/Subrecipients and the local CoC in implementing the ESG Program.

HCD is seeking to collaborate with CoCs in the 2012 NOFA by requesting they evaluate, rate, and rank Applicants within their respective jurisdictions in the Need for Funds Category. HCD is requesting as part of this collaborative effort that CoCs provide a Summary Listing of the Attachment Ds received within their jurisdiction by County, along with the respective Applicant's score and ranking. HCD is not requesting a Summary of the Project(s) within their jurisdiction from the CoC.

Q5:   What is a Comparable Database?

24 CFR 576.400(f) sets forth the Area-Wide Systems Coordination Requirements for participation in HMIS, and allows Victim Service Providers or Legal Services Providers to use a Comparable Database. HMIS is defined by HUD in 24 CFR 576.2.

If a Comparable Database is used, HUD requires that the database collect client level data over time and generate unduplicated aggregate reports based on the data. Information entered into a Comparable Database must comply with HUD's Standards on participation, data collection, and reporting. Further, information entered into a Comparable Database must not be entered directly into or provided to an HMIS.

Q6: **Will the Grant Application be similar to last year's Application?**

The 2011-Round 2 NOFA was HCD's first round of funding for the newly established ESG Program. The 2012 Application is being updated to coincide with the 2012 NOFA and HCD has attempted to incorporate changes in areas identified as needing improvement during the last funding round. While the Applications are similar, there will be noticeable distinctions primarily in the area of project-specific information.

Q7: **Would it be possible to have a workshop in the Los Angeles Area?**

Yes. HCD will be adding a third NOFA/Application Workshop for the 2012 NOFA Funding Round to be held in, or near, the Los Angeles Area. The location has not yet been determined.

Q8: **Why were there no Grants given to the San Joaquin Valley Programs in Round II?**

The ESG Program Regional Allocations are identified in State regulations as Northern, Southern, and Rural. The Central Valley Counties, ranging from San Joaquin County to Kern County, fall in all three Regions. San Joaquin County, in particular, is not an eligible county under the ESG Program.

HCD received (3) Applications from the Central Valley Counties, specifically Merced County (1) and Tulare County (2). The primary reasons grants were not awarded within the Central Valley relate to the extremely limited Emergency Shelter funds and extremely competitive nature of the 2011-Round 2 funding round.

Q9: **Can the Minimum Grant Amount be lowered?**

Yes. Based on input received from HCD's ESG Program Stakeholders, HCD is lowering the Minimum Grant Amount. The Minimum Grant Amount for all Allocations will be lowered to $50,000 in the 2012 NOFA.

Q10: **Why is HCD not allowing more funding to be released to Emergency Shelters?**

The 2011-Round 2 ESG NOFA was a Supplemental Grant received from HUD in the amount of $3.5 million. The Grant Agreement limited HCD's distribution of Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach funding for 2011, collectively for both Rounds 1 and 2, at 60%. Because the majority of Emergency Shelter Awards were made in 2011-Round 1, Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach were limited under 2011-Round 2 to $354,077 Statewide.

24 CFR 576.100 (b) of the HUD Regulations caps the distribution of Emergency Shelter and Street Outreach funding to 60% of the total Grant Allocation.

Q11: In order to apply for Emergency Shelter funds, does the facility need to be constructed at the time of application submittal?

The New Programs Allocation is available to Applicants that have Projects which have been operating for less than two years from the date of the applicable NOFA. There is nothing precluding an Applicant from applying for Emergency Shelter Component funds under the circumstances noted above. However, HCD would strongly recommend that you work with the ESG Program Staff to evaluate the details of the Project and funding requested to determine if the project would be viable.

Q12: Will HCD provide technical assistance?

Yes. HCD's ESG Program will conduct three NOFA/Application Workshops for the upcoming 2012 NOFA. In addition, HCD's ESG Program Staff will be available by telephone to provide technical assistance and will be posting Frequently Asked Questions to its HCD Website.

Q13: Can an organization apply for funds under more than one component on a single Application (i.e. Rapid Re-housing and Emergency Shelter)?

Yes. Organizations may apply for multiple Components in a single Application under the 2012 NOFA. However, certain restrictions will apply. Organizations are strongly encouraged to read the NOFA/Application thoroughly, and seek technical assistance if needed.

Q14: Will Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Housing be bundled into one Component or will an Organization be able to submit separate Applications for each Component?

Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter are two separate Components. Transitional Housing is a Sub-Component under the Emergency Shelter Component.

Yes. Organizations are able to submit separate Applications for each Component, but it is not required. An Application may contain multiple Components. The Applicant is responsible for determining which option best meets the needs of their Organization.

Q15: What is the State's definition of Rural?

The Rural County Allocation Region means a group of Counties with an individual County population of less than 200,000 and that have within their individual County boundaries one or more eligible cities.

Eligible Counties/Cities are identified in Appendix A of the 2012 NOFA

Q16: Will unfunded Grant Applications receive points under the new NOFA?

No. HCD does not anticipate awarding points for unfunded Grant Applications under the 2012 NOFA. 25 CCR 8400 sets forth Rating and Ranking Criteria, and the State Objectives Category allows some flexibility for evaluating, rating, and ranking the 35 Maximum Points available. HCD does, however, anticipate, making such considerations in future rounds of funding.

Q17: How will the CoC Rank the Applications received?

In the 2012 NOFA, HCD is asking that each CoCs establish written criteria, in accordance with 25 CCR 8411(b)(2), for reviewing, rating, and ranking Applicants within their jurisdiction under the "Need for Funds" Rating Category. CoCs are also asked to establish their local deadline by which Applicants will be required to submit their Attachment D and any other requirements, if necessary, to the CoC.